

Annual Congregational Meeting

CSZ's annual congregational meeting will take place at the synagogue at 3 pm on Sunday, May 15. The congregation will vote on several important items, including the approval of a budget for 1988/89 and the election of new officers and board members.

The congregation will also consider and vote on a bylaws amendment to establish a Religious School Committee as a regular standing committee of the congregation.

Details regarding the budget and the amendment, as well as candidates' statements, will have been sent to all CSZ members prior to the meeting. At the meeting, the congregation will also hear reports from the Rabbi, President, Treasurer, and committees on their accomplishments and future activities. (Only members whose dues are paid up-to-date are entitled to vote. As in past years, the Treasurer will assist members needing to arrange dues payments.)

So, be sure to mark your calendar for this vital decision-making event!

A Thank You

Catherine and I would like to thank the members of the congregation for their spontaneous and overwhelming outpouring of love during my recent hospitalization. I always knew this great reservoir of affection existed, but experiencing it was quite another thing. Thank you all for your love and wishes for my recovery.

—Leila Raim



"My Very Own Haggadah"

More than 20 children attended the second CSZ Children's Passover program and mini-seder, some for their first Passover observance. Older children cooked matzoh brei; Rabbi Kahn led the seder and the songs. Photo by Amy Blasenheim.

Cookbook in the News

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav presented Tim Wolfred, director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and Cary Norworthy, its media coordinator, with a check for \$7000 after Sabbath services on April 15. The sizable donation, one of the Food Bank's largest single contributions ever, was made possible by sales of our cookbook, *Out of Our Kitchen Closets: San Francisco Gay Jewish Cooking*. Three dollars from every cookbook sale is earmarked for the AIDS Food Bank.

The cookbook was first published in September 1987 with a press run of 2,500. So far, sales of the cookbook have been brisk (over 2,000 copies have been

sold), outpacing original projections by committee members. Our unique publication has been very well received by members of Sha'ar Zahav, cookbook lovers and the local press.

Due to our cookbook's success, Sha'ar Zahav is preparing a second printing. Committee members expect sales to remain steady for several years, in part due to an upcoming nationwide marketing campaign. As in the past, three dollars from every sale will be contributed to the AIDS Food Bank.

If you haven't already bought a copy, order one now! Call the synagogue office for information.

What's the Difference?

In our daily lives we all seem to know the difference between things we cannot do and things we choose not to do. If friends call and ask us to join them for dinner or a movie, we probably say a variation of one of three things: "Yes"; or "I can't"; or "I don't feel like it." Sometimes we say "I can't" when we mean "I don't feel like it." We consider it to be a white lie to save our friends' feelings. But when we choose to do this, we usually know the difference; we understand what we are doing. This is not necessarily true when it comes to synagogue life.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav has established membership dues at a level of one percent of gross income. This is a lot of money. There are very few of us who can afford it without moderate discomfort, if not pain. Some of us cannot afford it. For those our policy has always been: No one is turned away because of inability to pay. This is a matter which is strictly confidential between the member and the treasurer.

But some of us have read "unwillingness" for "inability." This mistake is a serious one for our temple. If your dues pledge and payment is less than one percent of your gross income, I ask that you honestly evaluate your budget. Many reform temples have a strict "fair share" system, which imposes a minimum dues of about \$500 or one and one-half percent of gross income, whichever is greater. If members who are able appear not to be in compliance, they are visited and their level of giving is discussed in some detail. We do not have such a system at our shul, but I suggest that each of us conduct a "fair share" dialogue with ourselves now and from time to time.

We should examine our priorities and ask ourselves if we can alter them in some way to meet our obligation to Sha'ar Zahav. If I cannot buy a new car and a new couch and have the house painted (or buy a new house!) and take a Hawaiian vacation and pay my dues, then I cannot. If, given that state of affairs, I decide to not pay one percent of my income in dues, it is clearly not because I cannot; it is because I choose not to, because I don't want to. We need to be honest with ourselves before we can be honest with our synagogue.

Before we know it, our annual communication from the treasurer will arrive suggesting that we increase our dues pledge for 1987-1988. Most of us know what our annual gross income is. Compute one percent. That is your minimum dues for Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. If you start to say to yourself, "I can't afford that," stop and ask yourself "I can't," or "I won't," what's the difference? Think about it.

See you at the Annual Meeting!

—Richard Inlander, President

Notes from the Library

Our library continues to be enriched by the generosity of our members. Rabbi Sanford Lowe presented the library with a number of volumes in memory of Rabbi Ben Marcus. Among those books are the *Rabbinic Bible* and the *Shulchan Aruch* in Hebrew, several volumes of Jewish literature and several liturgical and Chassidic song books. His gift is deeply appreciated.

Another treasured gift—*Spiritual Resistance: Art from Concentration Camps*—came to us from Leslie Bergson. This beautiful book, published by the UAHC is "one of 1000 copies" and a valuable addition to our library.

The sense of who we are as a congregation has been reflected in the *Jewish Gaily Forward* since September 1977. Alex Ingersoll has given the library the invaluable historical gift of his collection of all but the seven missing monthly issues of our newsletter. This adds up to quite a history of Sha'ar Zahav. The missing issues are: June, September, October and November 1978; January 1979; February 1981; and February 1982. (Have you any old *Forwards* lying around?) The archives are a really special contribution to our congregation.

A special *torah rabah* to Rabbi Lowe, Leslie and Alex for their generosity.

The library will be open for the Congregational Meeting on May 15. Everyone is invited to visit the library and members are encouraged to take advantage of check-out privileges.

—Bill Ashley-Dobbin

Condolences

We at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav extend our sympathy to the following members who have suffered recent losses.

To **David Glassberg** on the recent loss of his friend, John Trojanski.

To **Mike Rankin** on the recent loss of his friend, Tom Glynn.

To **Martha Rosett** on the recent loss of her friend, Elliot Daniel Zeff.

To **Jonathan Funk** on the recent loss of his friend, Andy Weiser.

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 11 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, and credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive the *Forward*. For a donation of \$12/year, non-members will receive the *Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due no later than the date of the Va'ad meeting. It should be sent to the synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*. All material is subject to editing; material will not be returned.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Alita Rosenfeld (Production Editor), Bob Goldware (Articles Coordinator), Howard Blechman, Stephanie Hannaford, Garry Koenigsberg, Henry Mach, David Shaber and David Stein (general editorial and production); Amy Blasenheim (photos); Frank Hyman, Alex Ingersoll, Sam Thal and Eli Weinstein (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by David Lester, Pagesetter Typography and printed by Lou Greene.

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

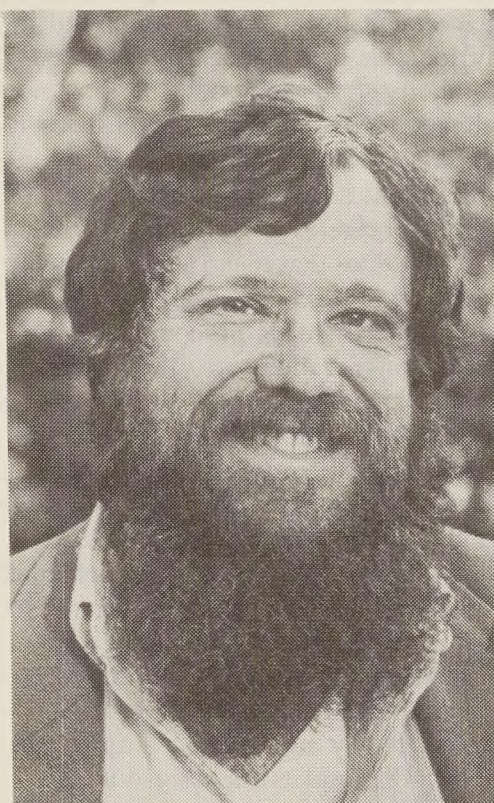
Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.

Michael Lerner on Israel

Michael Lerner, editor of *Tikkun* magazine, will speak on "American Jews and Israel in Light of the Uprising" on Tuesday, May 10, at 8 pm. All of us have watched with anguish and concern the continuing crisis in Israel. The uprising and the Israeli government's efforts to quell it began in December of last year, and has continued without interruption since. Our pain and sorrow over what is occurring in Israel and the occupied territories today is rooted in the lessons learned from our own history about oppression and justice as well as our concern for the Jewish state and the Jewish people.

Michael Lerner has a long history of involvement in progressive politics, Zionism and the Jewish community. He earned doctoral degrees from the University of California and the Wright Institute of Psychology. In 1977 he founded the Institute for Labor and Mental Health, which focuses on the problems of stress that workers face at work and in family life. Since 1986, he has been editor of *Tikkun* magazine, a Jewish intellectual journal which has had a significant impact on the Jewish and general community since its inception. The masthead explains that *Tikkun* means "to heal, repair and transform the world. All the rest is commentary."

American and Israeli Jews alike are deeply concerned about the events of



recent months and the historical circumstances which have led to the present crisis.

Michael Lerner promises to ask difficult questions and challenge us and the Jewish world to face up to answers we have yet to confront. This program, sponsored by the Education Committee, is the last of our 1987-88 Speaker Series.

Addicted And Jewish?

A community meeting will be held on Sunday, May 15, to organize Jewish communal support for Jews in recovery from addiction. The meeting will take place from 7 to 9 pm at the San Francisco Jewish Community Center, 3300 California Street. Many Jews feel alienated or put off by the use of the Lord's Prayer or other Christian imagery in 12-step programs and, at the same time, invisible in the Jewish community. What can the Jewish community do? Other cities sponsor Shabbat retreats, social programs, and Jewish meetings in support of 12-step programs. For more information, call Karen Robbins at the JCC (346-6040) or Rabbi Kahn.

Food Bank

Please, don't forget our brothers and sisters in need. Keep filling the shul's collection baskets with non-perishable food and other household items for the SF AIDS Foundation's residence program.

Family/Children's Havurah Children's Service

Children, parents, families and friends are invited to the Family/Children's Havurah spring Children's Service on Friday night, May 13, at 7:30 pm. Rabbi Yoel Kahn and Steve Greenberg will lead services and a story will be told. This service and the oneg which follows are an opportunity for all members of the congregation to spend time with the youngest members of the congregation to spend time with the youngest members of our congregational family. The children's service will begin promptly, end at 8 pm and will be followed by the regular Friday evening service at 8:15.

Children's Havurah Potluck

The Family/Children's Havurah will have a potluck on Saturday, May 7 at 4 pm, at Chaya Gustfield's home in Oakland. For more information, call the synagogue office or Chaya at 653-3724.

Oneg Sponsors

During March onegs were sponsored by the following generous people:

- 11 Mark Freeman, in honor of his hiking group's second anniversary
- 18 Mike Rankin, in honor of Isabelle Fishman's birthday
- 25 Allan Matcovsky, in honor of his 40th birthday and his 13th anniversary

All you have to do to sponsor an oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring a complete oneg is \$80 or, for partial sponsorship, \$50. You can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

Classified Ads

JOBS WANTED: Skilled and reliable workers for housekeeping, gardening, construction, and janitorial work are available through EMPLEO, a jobs cooperative for Central American refugees. Call 824-3773, Monday to Friday, 9 am to noon. For more information, see the March issue of the *Forward*.

COUNSELING OUR OWN: THE LESBIAN/GAY SUBCULTURE MEETS THE MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM, by Charna Klein, member of Seattle's Congregation Tikvah Chadashah and board member of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations. Pre-order for \$11.49 (includes shipping) from Consultant Services Northwest, 839 N.E. 96th Street, Seattle, Washington 98115.

INTIMACY AND COMMUNICATION: THE URGE TO MERGE. A workshop for lesbians. Sunday, June 5, 11 am to 4 pm. For further information call Nanci Stern, M.A., at 863-5081 or Wendy Moser, M.A., at 526-8876.

Are We the Shul With AIDS?

[The following column is adapted from Rabbi Kahn's sermon at Shabbat services on March 11. Based on a number of requests, it is printed below. The concluding section will appear next month.]

In a recent magazine article, my friend Jim Mitulski, pastor of San Francisco Metropolitan Community Church, described his congregation as "the church with AIDS." Are we not the shul with AIDS? Not that we are dying; indeed, as a congregation, I don't know that we have ever been more alive. But as a congregation, we are living and coping with a life-threatening illness. Our synagogue faces the same challenges as a person with AIDS, ARC or HIV-infection: some people avoid us because they are worried about getting the disease, or just do not want to be so close to illness. Our finances and other resources are strained because of the other urgent claims upon us. Long-term planning has never been more necessary—although how do we plan for the long term when tomorrow seems so precarious?

Internally as well, the meaning of our spiritual and religious beliefs and actions are being questioned and re-examined. This is a time of intense spiritual seeking, or reconsideration of priorities, and of mourning and grief.

In our congregation, we are in every stage of the grief and mourning process at once—denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. Sometimes we collectively come together from one to another; but more of the time, I think, different parts of our congregational organism are living out different feelings, depending on the personal circumstances of individuals. I believe that much of our grief—and our anger and even our apathy—is hidden underneath and not really shared in public.

When Elizabeth Kubler-Ross first explained her stages of loss and grief some years ago, she outlined a strict hierarchical process, in which a person first had to move through denial before moving on to bargaining and so on. Since then, we have come to realize that our emotions are not that mechanistic. Our feelings do not move in a steady linear progression—instead they free-associate, circling back, repeating the

cycle. One day I can accept my own movement from ARC to AIDS, but be furious tomorrow to learn of a friend's antibody test results. What has not changed is Kubler-Ross's original observation that a person in one stage of coping cannot hear or use the language of another stage.

What does that mean for us at Sha'ar Zahav, where so many stages are being experienced at once? It seems to me that, as a congregation, we are too often walled up to one another—that we are closed to hearing others' pain, others' issues and others' concerns, because we are too caught up in our own. "I am sick of this, I want to run away from it all ... don't talk to me about your spiritual crisis" or "I have found my own way to faith and acceptance and I don't want to listen to your anger, rage and despair."

What happens instead? First of all, we are silent. By and large, we don't talk about AIDS and its impact on our lives—not from the bimah, not in our newsletter, not in the oneg room. We show our concern in external ways—by filling the food baskets at the door week after week and we let a little bit of our pain and anguish out during the *misheberech* prayer. I wonder if we are all scared that this disease will tear us apart. Scared that our members will become ill and die. Scared that coming here will become too painful.

I have no answers. I know only that this is what we are about, at our very essence—being here, being present. I know that I have been strengthened here—and you have too; strengthened in our grief and in our healing.

—Rabbi Yoel Kahn

If you have tested positive on the HIV-antibody test and would like to attend an informal gathering with Rabbi Kahn to discuss strategies and resources, please call him at the synagogue office.

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Anniversaries

4 Michael Lipson & Doug Magnoli
22 Ali Cannon & Jodi Morgan

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Va'ad Report

The Va'ad met on Monday, April 11. President Richard Inlander called on Rabbi Yoel Kahn to give the customary *D'var Torah* to begin the meeting. Rabbi Kahn described Jewish holidays as peaks in Jewish time, and every day as an opportunity for transformation and sanctification. The time between Passover and Shavu'ot, when we count the omer, is also a time for changes in self-perception, just as the slavery to Pharaoh (*avodat Pharaoh*) was transformed into the worship of God (*avodat Hashem*).

Richard reported for UAHC liaison Mike Rankin that the next meeting of the UAHC Northern California Regional Committee on AIDS will take place at Temple Emanu-El on May 5.

Eric Keitel, CSZ's Treasurer, noted that contributions to the General Fund have been low throughout the year, and encouraged donations to this fund, which directly supports the operations and programs of the synagogue. Eric also reported that Steve Elman did a wonderful job as the organizer of this year's Purim party, which netted a small surplus.

A proposed bylaw amendment to create a standing Religious School Committee was approved by the Va'ad, as was a proposed budget for 1988/89. Both will be voted on at the Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday, May 15.

Paul Cohen, chair of the Cookbook Marketing Committee, presented the committee's revised proposal to reprint Sha'ar Zahav's cookbook, *Out of Our Kitchen Closets*. The Va'ad approved the printing of 5,000 additional copies (double the number of copies in the first printing), and continuing to donate \$3 from each copy to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation Food Bank.

Sen Talley, a member of CSZ's Bikkur Cholim Committee, presented the Va'ad with that committee's proposal to establish a new restricted fund to support and expand the committee's work of visiting people in hospitals and nursing homes. The Va'ad unanimously approved the proposal, which will be voted on by the Congregation at the annual meeting.

—Ben Schalit, Recorder

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| 14 Iyar 1 | 15 2 Newsletter Comm. 7:30pm, 1711 Castro | 16 3 | 17 4 | 18 5 | 19 6 Kabbalat Service, 6:15pm Services, 8:15pm | 20 7 Women's Havurah, 6:30pm, 648-5526 Children's Havurah, 4pm, 653-3724 |
| 21 8 | 22 9 Va'ad Meeting, 6:30pm Newsletter Deadline | 23 10 Michael Lerner Lecture, 8pm | 24 11 Soviet Vigil, 11:30am Western Regional Conf. Meeting, 7:30pm | 25 12 | 26 13 Children's Service, 7:30pm Services, 8:15pm | 27 14 |
| 28 15 Congregational Meeting, 3pm | 29 16 | 1 Sivan 17 Rosh Chodesh | 2 18 | 3 19 | 4 20 Bikkur Cholim Services at Jewish Home for Aged, 6:30pm Services, 8:15pm | 5 21 Kadimah, 9:30am Shavuot, Dinner, 7:30pm Service, 8:30pm Tikkun, 10pm |
| 6 22 | 7 23 | 8 24 | 9 25 | 10 26 Ritual Comm., 6:30pm Newsletter Mailing, 11 Grandview Terr., 7:30pm | 11 27 Services, 8:15pm | 12 28 Morning Services, 10:30am |
| 13 29 | 14 30 | 15 31 | | | | |

Ritual Calendar

Friday, May 6

Parshah Emor
Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15 pm
Rabbi Yoel Kahn & Aaron Frankel
Late Service, 8:15 pm
Dana Vinicoff

Friday, May 13

Parshah Be-har Be-Hukkotai
Children's Service, 7:30 pm
Rabbi Yoel Kahn & Steve Greenberg
Late Service, 8:15 pm
Rabbi Yoel Kahn & Tiela Chalmers

Friday, May 20

Parshah Be-Midbar
Bill Schlichter

Friday, May 27

Parshah Nosa
Rabbi Yoel Kahn & Jose-Luis
Moscovich

Saturday, May 28

Morning Service, 10:30 am
Rabbi Yoel Kahn & Steve Greenberg

Friday, June 3

Parshah Be-Ha'alotkha
Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:15 pm
Rabbi Yoel Kahn
Late Service, 8:15 pm
Mike Rankin & Jean Bellour

Point Reyes Hike

Come and join us for a congregational hike on Sunday, June 5 at Point Reyes National Seashore. We will assemble in front of the synagogue at 9:15 am, form carpools and start the hike beginning at the Sky Trail head at 10:30, going for six to seven moderately easy miles.

Bring along your lunch and water bottle. Black tie is optional, but sensible (comfortable) shoes are required! Questions? Call Allen Brandstein at 285-3577.

Women's Havurah

Havdalah Service and Potluck Dinner

All women are invited to join the Women's Havurah on Saturday, May 7, for a Havdalah service and potluck dinner to end the Sabbath. We will meet at 6:30 pm in Diamond Heights. Please call Ann Biderman (648-5526) to RSVP and to coordinate a dish to bring.

The Women's Havurah is in the process of regrouping. Anyone interested in being part of this committee is encouraged to call Ann Biderman.

Carol Fiul, M.A.

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Passover Nursing Home Visits

On Sunday, April 3, members of the Bikkur Cholim Committee made Passover visits to Jewish residents of the Park Board and Care and the Hillhaven Convalescent Center. With kiddush cup and Hansen's grape juice, seder plate and parsley, Arthur's charoses, two kinds of matzos, Michael's sponge cake and macaroons, and a memorable horseradish, regulars Arthur Seidman, Howard Bobren and Florence and Steve Nacumulli were joined by Alison Cohen and Allen Brandstein.

At the Park Home, where we have been visiting regularly for the past two years, Mr. Pollack and a new Jewish resident were waiting for us—along with our other friends. Mrs. Parks, with her gracious hospitality, interrupted preparation of her Easter dinner and offered us cookies and punch.

At Hillhaven, the charge nurse started gathering their Jewish residents. The story of the deliverance was passed on in the corner of the Hillhaven lounge—to both the Jewish residents and non-Jewish guests. Again we left matzos.

Next we went to see two residents who were unable to join us in the lounge. Mr. Scher, we heard, was very ill. He woke up, but he didn't understand that it was Passover and we were there to see him. Then Arthur brought up the Seder plate so he could see, and Florence held up the Kiddush cup and started the blessing—and Mr. Scher joined in. He realized why we were there, and we left another box of matzo.

Finally, we went up to the third floor, and in the lounge sleeping in her wheelchair, was a 104-year-old woman. We woke her up, but she wasn't with us. We showed her the Seder plate and tried the blessing. She knew it was food, so Florence started to feed her charoses with a spoon and she was eating sponge cake and drinking grape juice, but there was still no connection. Finally, Florence started to sing Dayenu, and all of us joined in the rousing chorus—and the little old woman started to sing with us—Dai, Dai, Enu. Suddenly she knew why we were there—for her—and for Pesach. And she reached out to each of us and wished us a Gut Yuntif.

Our visits to the nursing and board and care homes bring something special

to the residents. Our visits bring us something special, too. Please let us know if you would like to join in our next activity. Dayenu.

Elections Update

All CSZ members should have received packets with election information before the end of April. This will allow time for consideration of the candidates' statements before the May 15 congregational meeting.

The candidates for office are:

President: Robin Leonard

Vice President: Eric Keitel

Treasurer: Ben Schalit

Recorder: Alex Ingersoll

There are also five positions to be filled on the Va'ad this year; four two-year terms, and also a one-year term to fill the position being vacated by presidential candidate Robin Leonard. Those vying for these important posts are:

Don Albert

Allan Berenstein

Jose Luis Moscovich

Steve Greenberg

Jonathan Schwartz

Bill Goldstein

Dana Vinicoff

Those CSZ members who have not received the election material in the mail should contact the synagogue office.

—Allan Gold,
Election Committee

Western Regional Conference

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the Second Western Regional Conference of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Jews at Camp Sholom in the Malibu Hills, to be held on October 7-9.

This Western Regional Conference will bring together many congregations. Hosted by Beth Chayim Chadashim of Los Angeles, other congregations to be included are Sha'ar Zahav and Ahavat Shalom, Ahavat Tzion of Sacramento, Yachad of San Diego, Tikvah Chadashah of Seattle, and Mishpachah Am of Phoenix.

The goals of the weekend will be similar to those of the First Conference held at Camp Swig in 1986 and the World Conference in Amsterdam in 1987: spending time together and learning from each other. Toward that end, the planned weekend will include worship, study, discussion, social, and recreational activities. And, since Camp Sholom has a new Olympic-size swimming pool, bring your swimsuit!

The conference is now in the planning stage, with many items up for consideration—theme, workshops, entertainment, registration, transportation, ritual, and more. The first meeting of the local committee of our members will be held at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, May 11, at CSZ. We look forward to your attendance; if you cannot attend that initial meeting, telephone Jay Davidson at 861-2444.

Anyone who has attended an event such as this will tell you that it's not to be missed. Here's your chance to get in on the planning stages.

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Spotlight On...

Steve Elman

He holds up his mostly finished needlepoint—the Hebrew characters spell out “IT WILL BE GOOD!” This interviewer is struck by the aptness of the thought so carefully embroidered, for it is this thought that runs a thread through the life of Steve Elman, one of CSZ’s most loyal and unsung volunteers.

Born and raised in a not particularly temple-oriented Bronx family (though he *did* attend orthodox Hebrew school), Steve went to the Bronx High School of Science where he decided to become a dentist. After graduation from CCNY, he attended the Tufts Dental School in Boston. Since dental school graduation was during the Vietnam “conflict,” Steve decided to join the Air Force as an officer and a dentist. As one of the few recognized Jews stationed at Atwater Air Force Base (near Merced), Steve was drawn back to Judaism, almost as a matter of pride.

After military service he settled in Fremont (because on the map in his atlas, it looked really close to San Francisco) and began his dental practice. He joined Fremont’s Temple Beth Torah and was soon the chair of their Worship Committee, as well as a member of their board of directors. In 1978, when he read that CSZ was holding a memorial service for Harvey Milk, he correctly reasoned that ours must be a predominantly gay/lesbian shul.

He soon was attending both temples and finally joined CSZ in 1982 when, finding himself at a house where a New Members’ Tea was about to begin, he figured he might as well join. Realizing that the distance from Fremont made any regular CSZ committee work impractical, he decided to make his contributions in the form of singular events—organizing our contingent for the AIDS Bike-a-thon, working on the AIDS brunches, hemming the banners for the CSZ Names Project quilt panels, ushering at High Holy Days, helping with the annual sukkah construction, and chairing this year’s Purim event, “A Bissel Bazaar”—to name but a few. At the risk of overwhelming the reader, we also mention his Simchat Torah representation of CSZ at the Soviet Jewry rally, his attendance at the UAHC Conference in Amsterdam last summer, and his mem-

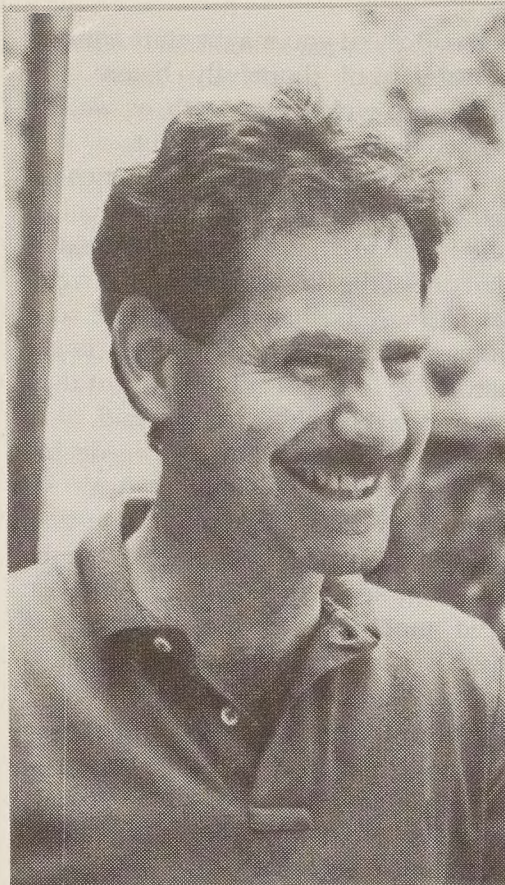


PHOTO BY AMY BLASENHEIM

bership in our tuneful Ensemble.

Amazingly, even with all of the preceding activities, the list of his ongoing contributions continues. In a culinary mode, he was a heavy recipe contributor to our cookbook, participated in the Tenderloin lunches in 1987, made latkes for the Chanukah party, prepared seder plates and haroset for the congregational seders, gave a lecture on Passover foods for the Education Committee, staffed our food booth during the Gay Freedom Day Parade, and has been a candy-striper for the Blood Drive.

His behind-the-scenes volunteerism continues with art work—who do you suppose made the great “thermometer” to measure donations for the building drive that bought our sanctuary? And the poster behind the AIDS food basket? As must follow from his profession (which demands a deft touch), Steve enjoys crafts such as cast gold jewelry (you would expect anything else from a dentist?), stained glass, pottery, and of course, needlepoint, the starting point in this article. The meticulous stitches and clever pattern remind us that, when Steve Elman brings his enthusiasm and energy to our temple, we know “IT WILL BE GOOD!”

—Howard Blechman

Kabbalat Services Begin

Beginning on Friday night, May 6, CSZ will inaugurate an early Shabbat evening service, beginning at 6:15 pm. The Kabbalat Shabbat service, which will start on a trial basis on the first Friday of the month from May through July, will be in addition to our regular Friday evening service at 8:15 pm.

Our goal in establishing this new service is to enable our congregational members and families to attend synagogue and then enjoy a leisurely Shabbat dinner at home. The Kabbalat Shabbat service will be informal, include *Kiddush* and *Motzi*, and end by 7 pm. Attendance at the regular Friday evening service, the largest weekly Shabbat eve service in San Francisco, has continued to grow and worshippers often have to squeeze into the pews. While we will always find a place for anyone who wishes to attend, we hope that the Kabbalat Shabbat service will relieve some of the pressure at the regular service.

Initially, the liturgy at the early service will be *Siddur Kabbalat Shabbat*, an egalitarian and inclusive-language prayerbook developed at Temple Israel of Boston specifically designed for services like this. If interest warrants, the Kabbalat Shabbat service on the first Friday of the month will become a permanent part of the congregation’s ritual calendar. This first service, May 6, will be led by Rabbi Yoel Kahn and Aaron Frankel.



RALPH FRISCHMAN
DESIGN CONSULTANTS

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Quiet on Quintara

Dear Quiet,

So what do you mean, we argue all the time? What kind of thing is that to say? What makes you the big authority on peaceable communication? You have statistics on how much we argue, maybe? You are maybe a professor of arguing?

Hmm. Aunt Yente is starting to think that, *takke*, you maybe have a point. True, we are not the only arguers around, and our non-Jewish friends occasionally have their differences, too, but we do seem to enjoy our disagreements. As it is written, two Jews, three opinions. For Aunt Yente, a good little intense discussion is like the garlic in the garden of life.

But what when there is too much garlic? (This maybe was not a good simile, because as is written, there can never be too much garlic. But too much arguing Aunt Yente thinks sometimes there can be.)

So let Aunt Yente answer your question. Jews argue because things matter to us. Our religion teaches there is one God (about this we try not to argue), and although there are many paths between God and the world, what is right and what is wrong is the same on all of them. But what is right and wrong in a particular situation is not always so clear. So how do you make clear? You argue.

Now Aunt Yente has friends who are Friends (she means Quakers, without the oats). When they disagree in their community, they sit together and pray, quietly, and they wait for God to help them decide. Then they see if they still disagree; and if they do, they sit and pray some more. Their community makes no decision until everyone agrees.

Aunt Yente has the greatest respect for such decisions, and for people who so value agreement and so trust in God. But wonderful as it is, this is not the Jewish way. One of our most important heritages is a respect for *seichel*—what translates badly in English as “common sense.” The whole idea of the Mishnah, and the Gemorah is that we can figure out what right and wrong is, by logic. But because your logic and your friend’s logic may be a little different sometimes, so you try to persuade, and they try to

persuade, and you maybe start arguing a little, until (hopefully before any dishes get broken) the truth, as well as we can figure it, is brought out.

There is a story about an argument at the time of the Talmud over a point of religious law. The talk became so heated that one of the Rabbis said “If I am right, let Heaven itself declare it.” Nu, so a voice from Heaven declared, “The law is according to Rabbi Whoosis.” But then his opponent, Rabbi Whatsis, said, “Nu, don’t we have a rule that we decide things by ourselves and not wait for signs or miracles?” And the house of study agreed, and they decided that the law was according to Rabbi Whatsis. And another voice from Heaven was heard, laughing, “My children have beaten Me at My own game!”

So if there is not a Jewish Pope, and if there are many Jewish opinions, and a fair amount of Jewish argument, so *takke* we have it on good authority that we are looking for answers the right way.

But you shouldn’t think that Aunt Yente is encouraging every kind of argument. Aunt Yente will tell you that the Talmud talks about two kinds of disagreement: those that are for the sake of heaven, and those which are not. There are things that are worth arguing about, and there are things which are not; and even more important, there is *derech erez*—common decency—in every kind of argument. Is the intent to figure out what’s right, or is the intent to make someone uncomfortable? Do people make clear that they are arguing their own opinion, or do they claim that they are saying the absolute truth? Aunt

Yente, of course, has very strong opinions, and it is true that she is always right; but even she tries to listen.

Wanna make something of it?

—Aunt Yente

Aunt Yente loves to receive your questions about Jewish law and ritual matters, and tries to answer as many as she can in her column (but a guarantee she doesn’t make.) Just write her c/o the Forward, 220 Danvers Street., San Francisco, CA 94114. All material © 1988 Congregation Sha’ar Zahav.


☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Birthdays

- 1 Avner Lapovsky
- 1 Michael P.
- 2 Rena Frantz
- 3 Marion Trentman
- 4 Eileen Dunn
- 5 Alison Butler
- 6 Joyce Amburgey
- 7 Tom Steel
- 8 Stephanie Hannaford
- 15 Alison Loebel
- 16 Kenneth Burke
- 16 Ron Shore
- 16 Ed Tanovitz
- 17 Ed Gabay
- 17 Janice Macomber
- 18 Carol Cohen
- 18 Jane Graeven
- 18 David Stein
- 21 Jerry Rosenstein
- 23 Suzanne Shimek
- 25 Jeffrey Serman
- 26 Sylvia Weisenberg
- 28 Sherie Koshover
- 29 Marilyn Kalman
- 29 Eric Keitel

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CHIROPRACTIC

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past months by the following contributors:

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sandra Butler, in memory of Barbara Rosenblum

Rena Frantz, in memory of Bill Wilkins
Al Baum

AIDS Fund

Rena Frantz, in memory of Tim Wiese

David Stein & Alex Ingersoll, in memory of Gary Starliper

Steve Elman, in memory of Gary Starliper

David Delroy

Jonathan Funk, in memory of Andrew Weiser and wishing Sharyn Saslafsky a speedy recovery

Richard Sinkoff, in honor of the birth of his nephew Ezra Bernard Sinkoff Dreiblat

Isabelle Fishman, in memory of her mother's yahrzeit

Bob Goldware & Jay Feinstein, in memory of Gary Starliper

Social Action Fund

Jerome Nodiff, in memory of Cheryl Orvis

Library Fund

Mike Rankin, in honor of Charna Klein's book and her friendship

Steve Elman, in memory of Winifred Gutterman, Bob Gutterman's mother, and in memory of Adeline Brilliant

General Fund

Steve Elman, in honor of Mike Rankin's retirement from the Navy; and in honor of Eric Keitel's speedy recovery

Sen Talley, in memory of Tom Zack; in memory of Bob Gutterman's mother, Winifred; in honor of Lois Buckman's birthday; in memory of Linda Emuncio-Streb's grandfather

Glen Gelfensen

Larry Sorgman, in memory of Cheryl Orvis and the loss of a good leader, her open gestures of friendliness

Isabelle Fishman, in honor of her recovery from illness

Sherie Ann Koshover, in memory of Cheryl Orvis

Bob Goldware & Jay Feinstein, in memory of Bob Gutterman's mother, Winifred

Building Fund

Steve Elman, in memory of Cheryl Orvis

Bob Goldware & Jay Feinstein, in memory of Cheryl Orvis

Education Fund

Richard Sinkoff, in honor of the birth of his nephew Ezra Bernard Sinkoff Dreiblat

Sanctuary Fund

Jerry Rosenstein, in honor of Ron Lezell

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained several new members in April. A warm welcome to the latest people to join our family:

George Ash

Ali Cannon & Jodi Morgan

David Delroy

Scott Mezistrano

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.

Potluck and Tikkun

This year Shavu'ot, the last of the three pilgrimage festivals, falls on Saturday night, May 21. According to tradition, the Torah was revealed to the Jewish people on Mt. Sinai at Shavu'ot.

Under the influence of Jewish mystics, the custom of a *tikkun leil Shavu'ot*—an all-night study session—began in the 16th century. This custom will be renewed at Sha'ar Zahav this year with our first "*tikkun* 'til dawn." This memorable evening will begin with a dairy potluck dinner, beginning at 7:30. Dinner will be followed by Havdalah and a festival evening service at 8:30 including the chanting of the Book of Ruth. Our *tikkun* will begin at 10 pm and continue as long as we can. Rabbi Yoel Kahn and a number of synagogue members will lead Torah study and discussion on a variety of topics, from *halachah* to story telling and from Miriam to Mary Daly. The formal and informal study will be combined with singing, noshing, stargazing and shmoozing. While everyone may not be able to stay up the entire night, please come for as long as you can. If you come to dinner, please bring a dish to share. Latecomers will all be seated; the doors do not close until dawn.

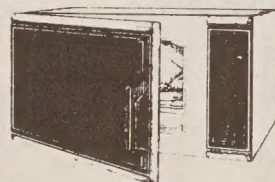
Naches

Congratulations to **Jacqueline Letalien** for being published in the winter issue of *Androgyne* and the March/April issue of *Bay Area Women's Newsletter*.

Congratulations also to **Alice L. Perlman** for the critique "Looking at Jewish Art" which appeared in the March issue of *Moment*.

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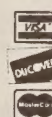
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Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

שַׁעַר זָהָב

220 DANVERS AT CASELLI, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94114

(415) 861-6932

Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Officers:

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Vice President, Irene Ogus
Treasurer, Eric Keitel
Recorder, Ben Schalit

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Tiela Chalmers
Jay Feinstein
Robert Goldware
Betty Kalis
Garry Koenigsberg
Ellen Kugler
Robin Leonard
Alita Rosenfeld
Susan Talley

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 am — check calendar for each month.

Committee Chairs:

Bikkur Cholim, Paul Cohen
Brotherhood, by committee
Building, David Gellman
Bylaws, Richard Inlander
Family/Children's Havurah, Sue Douglass & Jill Rose
Education, Bill Goldstein
Finance, Don Albert
Membership, Merry Luskin
Newsletter, by committee
Oneg, Bill Ashley-Dobbin
Past Presidents Council, Daniel Chesir
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky & Andy Zimmerman
Ritual, Steve Greenberg
Social Action, Ami Zusman
Social Program, by committee
Women's Havurah, Ann Biderman

Data Managers:

Alita Rosenfeld
Jerry Rosenstein

Office Managers:

Jenny Helbraun
Jacqueline Letalien

Office Hours: M, 9:30–5; Tu, Th, F, 9:30–2; W, 9:30–6.

Emergency Number: In an emergency, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 420-9718.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th & Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Stanyan to 18th & Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Member Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Mike Rankin, Liaison) and World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations (Ora Prochovnick, Liaison).

Yahrzeits

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1 Rachel Lusson Klein, daughter of Katy Lusson | 13 Miriam Dreskin, mother-in-law of Barry Siegel | Schneeman |
| 1 Esther Koch, grandmother of Ida Kuluk | 14 Harold Leben, uncle of Rob Tat | 21 Marvin Saslafsky, father of Sharyn Saslafsky |
| 2 (Iyar 15) Harry Skolnik, grandfather of Hal Heller | 14 (Iyar 27) Rachel Koshover, grandmother of Sherie Koshover | 22 Roseann Sterman, mother of Jeffrey Sterman |
| 4 Sadye Millner, mother of Lawrence Millner | 14 (Iyar 27) Max Podgur, father of Hal Podgur | 24 Patrick Whalen, friend of Paul Wotman |
| 4 (Iyar 17) Sarah Newman, grandmother of Jonathan Schwartz | 18 Jack Cohen, grandfather of Jay Cohen | 25 (Sivan 9) Bertha Kornfield Miller, mother of G. Murray Miller |
| 4 (Iyar 17) Frances Raim, mother of Leila Raim | 18 Blair Isrow, cousin of Steven Cronenwalt | 26 Ida Parker, mother of Harold Parker |
| 5 Ruth Hirst, grandmother of Milton Estes | 18 (Sivan 2) Pearl Solove, grandmother of Ora Prochovnick | 29 Philip Hilsenrad, father of Marjorie Hilsenrad |
| 11 (Iyar 24) Goldie Markson Rosen, mother of Barry Rosen | 19 Allan Altman, member of the congregation | 29 Rose Jacobstein, aunt of Betty Kalis |
| 12 Helen Epstein, aunt of Alita Rosenfeld | 19 Hyman Feinstein, father of Jay Feinstein | 30 Jasper Cline, grandfather of Diane Spaugh |
| 12 Jack Fleming, brother-in-law of Gordon Osser | 19 Joan Icke, mother of Cindy Icke | 30 Steven Koenigsberg, friend of Don Albert |
| | 19 (Sivan 3) Saul Prochovnick, grandfather of Ora Prochovnick | 30 Mary Thal, mother of Sam Thal |
| | 20 Marika Chill, mother of Yo | |